territory and the Open India-Nepal border for activities inimical to India's interest and are seized of the matter. Governments of Nepal and India have agreed that they would not allow their territory to be abused by vested interests to launch activities inimical to the interests of either country. A bilateral institutional mechanism has also been evolved which includes the setting up of a Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary Level talks to jointly address issues relating to maintenance of peace and security in the India-Nepal border areas.

Revival of Cricket between India and Pakistan

†2652. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cricket relations between India and Pakistan are being revived again;

(b) if so, by when the deadlock would be removed to start matches between the two countries; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Indian Cricket Team has been playing with the Pakistani Cricket Team in multilateral tournaments. The team played the Pakistan team in several multilateral series last year.

Modernisation of Passport services

2653. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for the passport services is on increase because of impact of globalisation: and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to modernise the passport services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is the Government's constant endeavour to modernise passport services and the measures taken by the Government in this regard are: computerisation of processing procedures, simplification of passport and miscellaneous services forms, decentralisation of passport services to enable submission at the district level,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.